CAECILIIDAE IN AMPHIBIA AND INSECTA (PSOCOPTERA): PROPOSALS TO REMOVE THE HOMONYMY. Z.N.(S.)2333

By Thomas E. Moore & Ronald A. Nussbaum (*University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan U.S.A.*)
& Edward L. Mockford (*Department of Biological Sciences, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois, U.S.A.*)

Homonymy exists between names of the family group based on similarity of spelling of the names of type genera, and thus identity of stems, for CAECILIIDAE in current use for a group of psocid insects and a group of apodous amphibians commonly called caecilians. Such cases are to be referred to the Commission (Code Article 55a).

2. *Caecilia* Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 229; as *Coecilia*, p. 196) is the type genus of the family-group taxon CAECILIADAE Gray, 1825 (Amphibia, Gymnophiona). The emended name CAECILIIDAE Garman, 1884 is currently used for 23 genera and about 85 species of caecilians found in the tropics of Mexico, Central America, South America, Africa, the Seychelles Archipelago and India (Taylor, 1968, in a summary of the application of family-group names in the Gymnophiona). *Caecilia tentaculata* Linnaeus, 1758, was the only species included in his family by Gray and was formally subsequently designated as type species of the genus by Dunn, 1942.

3. *Caecilius* Curtis, 1837, is the type genus of the family-group taxon CAECILIINI Kolbe, 1880 (Insecta, Psocoptera), which Kolbe separated from the genus *Peripsocus* Hagen, 1866 in the parallel family-group taxon PERIPSOCINI, while dividing psocids into five such tribes. The emended name CAECILIIDAE is currently used for a group occurring in all continents and including about 16 genera with well over 300 species (Mockford, 1969). Smithers, 1972, and Badonnel, 1951, summarise the application of family-group names in the Psocoptera. Mockford, 1969, p. 78, designated *Caecilius fenestratus* Curtis, 1837 as type species of the genus. The valid name for this species is *Psocus fuscopterus* Latreille, 1799, a distinctive and common European species, and it was wrongly cited as the type species by Smithers, 1972, p. 117. Mockford correctly cited Curtis's species as the nominal type species, but did not correct the synonymy.

4. Enderlein, 1901, raised Kolbe's tribe to subfamily rank (without changing its spelling), included four other genera in the subfamily and separated it from the subfamily MESOPSOCINAE. Two years later (1903) he used CAECILIIDAE Kolbe for the first time. Cockerell, 1929, was the first to recognise the problem of homonymy and proposed a substitute name based on *Peripsocus:* PERIPSOCIDAE. Karny, 1930, maintained that the two genera *Caecilius* and *Peripsocus* must be placed in separate families and proposed the name LACHESILLIDAE for the

family that included *Caecilius*. Pearman, 1936, proposed, as one of nine superfamily names, CAECILIETAE for five families including CAECILIIDAE and POLYPSOCIDAE, assigning *Lachesilla* to another family in a different superfamily. Roesler, 1940, maintained that both *Peripsocus* and *Lachesilla* must fall in family-group taxa separate from the one containing *Caecilius* and proposed including the genera placed in CAECILIIDAE by Pearman (and three other families of Pearman's classification) under the family POLYPSOCIDAE. Mockford, 1978, provided a recent summary of the application of family-group names to CAECILIIDAE and its relatives and discussed difficulties of interpretation and application. Most recent authors dealing with this insect group have ignored the homonymy and have continued to use CAECILIIDAE for this group of psocids.

5. The syntypes of *Psocus fuscopterus* Latreille are two female specimens in the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles, Brussels. They were recently examined by one of us (E.L.M.) and are clearly the species illustrated by Latreille, 1799, in the coloured pl. 2, fig. 2 and by Curtis, 1837, pl. 648, as both *Psocus fenestratus* and *Caecilius fenestratus*. There is, however, nothing about either specimen to indicate that it is the one shown in Latreille's illustration. The figure is in a supposed life-like position, totally different from the positions of the pinned types. There is reason to believe that these are the specimens from the Paris region examined by Latreille in the Bosc Collection. Horn & Kahle, 1937, and Lameere, 1902, state that Latreille's collection of 'Neuroptera' (Linnean sense, including psocids) went to M. E. de Selys-Longchamps whose collections are at Brussels. These specimens bear a locality label in the elongate style of Bosc's labels, and Enderlein's handwritten label (as judged from the photographs in Horn & Kahle, 1937, the latter probably placed there during his study of the Selys-Longchamps collection at Brussels). Enderlein, 1915, p. 15, referred to two female specimens from Paris as Latreille's types.

6. We have chosen one of these specimens, decidedly more complete than the other, as lectotype. This female retains one forewing (which shows the colour pattern clearly, diagnostic for the species), both hindwings, all legs, a complete head with both antennal bases and the first flagellomere on the right and the first three flagellomeres on the left side. The abdomen, apparently complete, is glued lengthwise along the pin. Measurements of the lectotype are as follows (measuring micrometer unit=0·014 mm): forewing length 3·06 mm, hindwing length 2·45 mm, hind femoral length 0·67 mm, hind tibial length 1·05 mm. The pin bearing the lectotype has the following labels in the order indicated: first (upper) label, handwritten word 'Paris'; second label, first line handwritten 'Caecilius fuscopterus Latr.', second line handwritten 'Latreill'sche Type' (these two lines in Enderlein's handwriting, referred to above), third line machine printed 'det. Enderlein 1908'; third label, first line handwritten 'Caecilius', second line handwritten 'fuscopterus',

third line printed 'Collection Selys'; fourth label, machine printed word 'type' with border in orange line. The pin bearing the paralectotype has the same set of labels.

7. Dr Tim New (*La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria, Australia 3083*) kindly examined the type specimens of *Caecilius fenestratus* Curtis in the Curtis collection at the National Museum of Victoria, Melbourne. We are grateful to him for the following information:

'There are six specimens of *Caecilius fenestratus* standing under the number 742b (genus no.) and *9c (species no.). The specimens are clearly conspecific: two are directly pinned and four are mounted (with wings and appendages spread) on small rectangular cards. None of the cards and neither pin (the insects are "low-pinned" in accordance with fashion of the time) has any data attached. The specimens are somewhat shrivelled, in common with most dry-mounted psocids, but are clearly recognisable as the species figured in *British Entomology* pl. 648.

'I have no doubt that it is the species now known as *Caecilius fuscopterus* (Latr.) and no other similar species occurs in Britain.

'Although *British Entomology* gives the type locality as Glanvilles Wootton, Dorset (probably Dale specimens), the notebook (photostat enclosed) appears to refer mainly to specimens from other localities. There is one entry "e. June Gl. Woot." but this cannot be linked to any particular specimen. Nevertheless, if the original specimens of *fenestratus* are present, they must be included in this series. In some cases at least, Curtis merely listed additional localities in this notebook, as an adjunct to *British Entomology*. I will label one of the better carded specimens as "lectotype of *Caecilius fenestratus* Curtis, det. T. R. New 1983" in order to provide a definite reference point.'

8. CAECILIIDAE Kolbe must be rejected as a family-group name in insects because it is a junior homonym. There appears to be no valid family-group name available and appropriate for *Caecilius* Curtis and relatives, and no junior synonym or closely related genus on which to base an effective alternative. *Caecilius* Curtis itself includes over 300 species, some of which occur on every continent. CAECILIDAE is not appropriate as an alternative because of the ready confusion and because herpetologists have often referred to their animals both formally and informally as caecilids. In the interests (1) of maintaining as much stability as possible in family names and nomenclatural systems, (2) of enhancing access to the generalisations that they promote, and (3) of having the familial associations of *Caecilius* Curtis and relatives as obvious as possible, we propose emending Kolbe's family-group name for the psocids to CAECILIONIDAE to avoid homonymy. In addition, we request that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature take the following actions:

(1) use its plenary powers to rule that the stem of *Caecilius* Curtis, 1837, for the purposes of Article 29 is CAECILION-;

(2) place the following names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

(a) *Caecilia* Linnaeus, 1758 (gender: feminine), type species, by subsequent designation by Dunn, 1942, *Caecilia tentaculata* Linnaeus, 1758 (Amphibia Gymnophiona);

(b) *Caecilius* Curtis, 1837 (gender: masculine), type species, by subsequent designation by Mockford, 1969, *Caecilius fenestratus* Curtis, 1837 (Insecta, Psocoptera);

(3) place the following names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) *tentaculata* Linnaeus, as published in the binomen *Caecilia tentaculata* (specific name of type species of *Caecilia* Linnaeus, 1758);

(b) *fuscopterus* Latreille, 1799, as published in the binomen *Psocus fuscopterus*) (the valid name at present of the type species of *Caecilius* Curtis, 1837);

(4) place the following names on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:

(a) CAECILIIDAE (emendation of Caeciliadae) Gray, 1825 (type genus *Caecilia* Linnaeus, 1758);

(b) CAECILIONIDAE (emendation, through the ruling under the plenary powers in (1) above, of CAECILIINI Kolbe, 1880), type genus *Caecilius* Curtis, 1837;

(5) to place the family-group name CAECILIINI Kolbe, 1880 (a junior homonym of CAECILIIDAE Gray, 1825) on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology.

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